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A NEW SLAVE-MAKING ANT FROM JAPAN

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A NEW SLAVE-MAKING ANT FROM JAPAN.

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One of the most interesting Japanese ants in my collections is a slave-making species, belonging to *Polyergus*, and apparently distinct from the known European and North American forms of the genus.

Polyergus rufescens Latreille subsp. *samurai* subsp. nov.

Worker. Length 5-6 mm.

Head nearly pentagonal, excluding mandibles; with somewhat parallel sides, prominent occipital portion and nearly straight

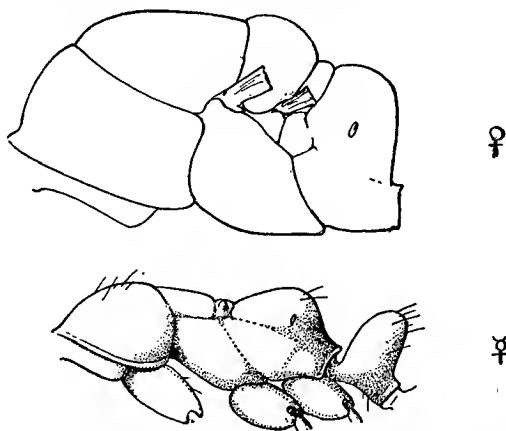


Fig. 1. *Polyergus rufescens* Latr., subsp. *samurai* subsp. nov. Profile of thorax in female and worker.

posterior border; the mandibles narrow and long, curved inward, pointed, with a minutely dentate masticatory margin, clypeus triangular, broad, and flat, its anterior margin nearly straight; frontal area small, distinctly broader than long, its posterior suture rounded, anterior suture nearly straight; median line long and distinct; antennal carinae not distinct; antennae rather short, the scapes just reaching to the posterior border of the head, somewhat swollen apically, the flagellum long, filiform; ocelli very distinct;

eyes prominent. Thorax a little narrower than the head; pronotum rounded above and in front; mesonotum longer than broad, flat above; pro-mesonotal suture distinct, with a lateral distinct suture between the mesonotum and mesopleuræ; meso-metanotal depression very wide; epinotum a little narrower than the pronotum, much produced, rather sharply rectangular between the basal portion and declivity, the basal portion as long as the declivity, the former slightly convex, the latter feebly concave. Node of petiole very thick, distinctly narrower than the epinotum, the upper surface rounded and broad, anterior slope very convex, posterior slope flat and convex below, gaster short, from above subspherical.

Body finely punctured and opaque above; under surface of the body, legs, mandibles, and tip of gaster somewhat shining.

Hairs brownish, sparse, bristly and erect, scattered on the clypeus, dorsum of pronotum and metanotum, upper edge of the node of petiole and gaster; mandibles with fine and short hairs; grayish pubescence very fine, dense on the upper half of the body, including antennæ and legs.

Brownish black to deep reddish brown; antennæ and legs somewhat paler.

Female (deälated). Length 7.5 mm.

Resembling the worker and female of the typical form. Mesonotum flat above; epinotum more gibbous, the basal portion shorter than the declivity. Body black; mouth parts, antennæ and legs chestnut brown, and the flagellum and tarsus paler. Bristly hairs scanty; golden pubescence very dense on upper surface of thorax and abdomen, obscure on the head and legs.

Habitat. Prov. Hyûga (M. Yano); Prov. Buzen (M. Yano.); Tokyo (M. Oguma and M. Yano).

This subspecies differs from the typical *rufescens* in its darker color, more opaque surface, shorter pubescence, and in the shape of the epinotum which is more angular than in the European and North American forms of *rufescens*.

This ant is a rather common species near Tokyo and in Kiûiû, and probably throughout middle Japan. It inhabits nests in the earth in the most exposed situations and even in dry fields. The slaves of this ant are *Formica fusca fusca* var. *japonica* Motschulsky (= *F. fusca nipponensis* Forel), a common species in my

country, and curiously seem to resemble it in general appearance. Their expeditions are made during the afternoon from the end of June to August, occasionally three times in the same day.

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to Prof. W. M. Wheeler for his valuable suggestions.

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